

European Down Syndrome Association

Poland Dolnoslaskie Stowarzyszenie na Rzecz Osob z Zespołem Downa Razem

(Lower Silesia Down Syndrome Association RAZEM)

Internet: stowarzyszenie-razem.org

Founded: 2007, 21 March in Wroclav

President: Magdalena Piechaczyk

Members: 105

Finances: membershipfees, donations

Main goals

- promoting the open society idea towards DS people
- supporting DS people and their families in each stage of life
- promoting early intervention, rehabilitation, medical support and creating an education system for people with DS, looking for new ideas in that field
- promoting self reliance in people with DS by giving them education, prepare them for work, support them in the work and housing situation
- creating more interests among society for Down Syndrome in the Lower Silesia region



Madalena Piechaczyk,
president of Razem

Awareness campaign

Our Organisation was founded on World Down Syndrom Day 2006. Since then we celebrate this day with different activities: f.i. a foto exhibition in the center of the town Wroclav in (2008). The exhibition will be moving around six big shopping centers in the following years.

Projects and campaigns

- education program for children with DS and changing the education system
- medical program to take better care of the health of people with DS
- support program for families living outside the city Wroclav
- services for brothers and sisters
- radio Razem in internet
- seminars for professional doctors and teachers
- housing for adults with DS, in cooperation with other association

Very succesful was our first DS- congress oktober 2008 and the celebration of WDS in march 2008.

Our pilot programs, preparing toddlers for kindergarten and the foundation of new mainstream kindergartens in Wroclav are running well.

General information

1. Main problems in our country is the lack of awareness and acceptance towards people with DS, lack of a good education system and the lack of knowledge about Down syndrome, as a genetic cause and how this effects the persons life.

More awareness, keeping statistics of DS-numbers and the education system are things to be changed urgently. In general the live-quality of individuals with DS is poor and should be improved.

Numbers

We have no statistics about the number of babys born or people with Down Syndrome living in Poland.

Situation of babys and toddlers

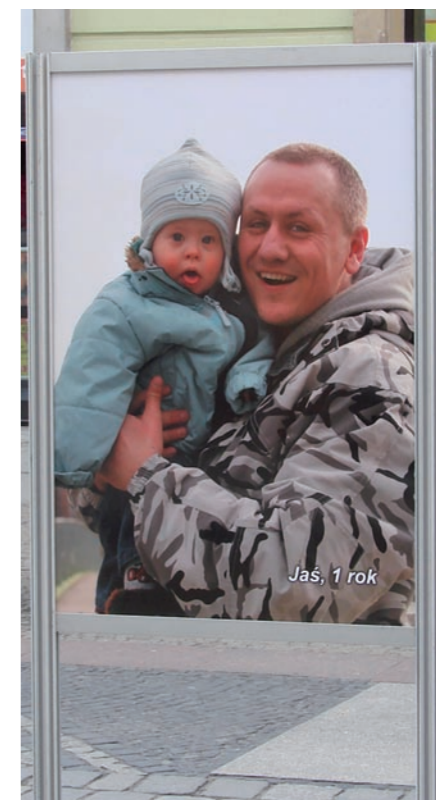
- medical care: the knowledge is improving day by day
- physiotherapy: the access is limited, but the quality is good
- early intervention: the access is limited but the quality is high

Situation of schoolchildren

About 10 % of children (6-12 years old) are mainstreamed in regular schools, but none of the children older than 12 years visits a regular school. Most children are placed in special schools.

Situation of adults

We have no data, but there are only very limited work possibilities and no housing programs for adults so far.



Jarek Pieniak, cofounder of the organisation in Wroclav, together with his son Jan.



Services

We offer counseling and organise seminars, courses and family days.

Publications

We have no publications yet, but have produces some films for the website. Our website has 12.000 visitors from all over the world.